

Manitou Incline 'Looking at the Possibilities' THE incline PROJECT

Focus Session: Management and Operations

July 15, 2010 6-9pm at the Manitou City Hall

On July 15th, 38 citizens met to discuss the possible solutions and their implications for management and operations for the Manitou Incline. After review of the Critical Issues, and presentation of the Possibilities, the participants divided into five small groups for discussion of the management and operation options. Each group was assigned to start with a different one of the categories identified. The small groups identified favorite and least favorite possibilities and added other ideas, and then reported out to the full group. This was followed by open comment and discussion time.

The following is a summary of the public input. This, along with technical expertise will guide the alternative plan development.

Within a framework of “Sustainability - Economic/ Environmental/Social (Community)”, the following five categories were used for the presentation and discussion of possibilities.

- Funding
- Marketing
- Maintenance
- Rules of Use
- Management

FUNDING

Alternative Plans will include:

- For Capital - Donations, grants, sponsorships (limited), non-profit fundraising, foundation
- For Operations and Maintenance - parking fees for use towards trail maintenance, individual user fees, group use fees, official races fees, special event fees, reduced fees for Manitou residents, foundation, on-site staffing presence for collection or monitoring of fees paid, collection point for fees and/or donations

Alternative Plans may consider: existing municipal tax sources (general fund, lodging, business), contribution from owners, historic designation, voluntary suggested donation fee

Possibilities no longer ‘on the Table’: New taxing source; dedicated taxing source

New Ideas and Comments: Venture capital for private management, friends group, enterprise operation (data needed), self-sustaining operation, rentable for exclusive fee, contribution from business benefitting from Incline

MARKETING

Alternative Plans will include: Passive promotion (don't market above carrying capacity), non-aggressive advertising through sponsorships (in-character sponsorship signs on site, on steps/at trailheads), carefully managed and limited number of events sponsored by managing entity as a fundraising vehicle, limited number of commercial events (for profit) - also as a fundraising vehicle; promotion of "Incline" merchandise through local retailers (enlisted as sponsors) for fundraising purposes, grand opening event.

Alternative Plans may consider: Other best practices not currently identified

Possibilities no longer 'on the Table': Active/aggressive promotion; outright advertising, "insert name here" on railroad ties

New Ideas and Comments: how to encourage users to support local businesses

MAINTENANCE

Alternative Plans will include: Paid or contract staffing supplemented by volunteers (individual and group); modified "*Leave No Trace*" ethic with trailhead trash cans and trash cans on Ruxton; no pets; designated rest areas - small flat areas just off traffic flow; wayfinding signage for legitimate ways off the incline; restrooms at the bottom of the incline (composting toilets/solar); low impact locational identification on ties for emergency response; maintenance standards

Alternative Plans may consider: other best practices not currently identified

Possibilities no longer 'on the Table': pets on or off leash, official designation as open space, solely volunteer effort, pure "*Leave No Trace*" ethic

New Ideas and Comments: None noted

RULES OF USE

Alternative Plans will include: Posted hours of operation; dawn to dusk hours, no limit on hours; bottom only access, established limited multiple access points/bail outs; no social trails; uphill traffic only, “up only” recommended signage; up and down with uphill right of way; reservation system for big groups, group use unlimited; no pets; enforcement plan and framework, “soft” opening for enforcement of rules (warning period) followed by ticketing for infractions, close only as necessary for construction; solar powered call box at top and possibly other locations(s); closed periods for maintenance; closed for period before official opening

Alternative Plans may consider: seasonal hours of operation, “hard” opening for enforcement of rules (tickets), no trespassing before plan implemented (ownership input needed, need to be able to respond to changing circumstances)

Possibilities no longer ‘on the Table’: pets on or off leash

New Ideas and Comments: Comprehensive signage at trailhead for trail etiquette, respectful use, wayfinding signage only at top; better/more informative signage, educational classes, identify number of users currently, identify capacity of incline

MANAGEMENT

Alternative Plans will include: establishment of a free standing authority made up of key stake holders; management contract with a vested interest; opportunity for continuing citizen and user input; advisory board; minimal changes affecting difficulty of incline, use at your own risk philosophy, familiar identification (like ski slope) of difficulty of trail with warnings/examples/visuals of potential hazards; close only to the extent necessary during rehabilitation, phased closure top to bottom

Alternative Plans may consider: Management contract with private company; no trespassing before plan implemented (ownership input needed, need to be able to respond to changing circumstances); use of volunteers to help manage

Possibilities no longer ‘on the Table’: Continuation of existing multiple government jurisdictions/ownerships to manage, monitored use at all open times

New Ideas and Comments: Collect data about current use during this high season, use volunteers to cover one weekend dusk to dawn

‘Looking at the Possibilities’ Operations and Management Workshop

6:00	OPENING / WELCOME	<i>Aimee Cox/Dan Folke</i>
	Review of tonight’s agenda	<i>Tweed Kezziah</i>
	Review of Critical Issues	<i>Priscilla Marbaker</i>
6:20	PRESENTATION: POSSIBLE APPROACHES	<i>Chris Dropinski</i>
7:05	GROUP WORK: CONSIDERATION OF POSSIBILITIES	<i>All</i>
	Instructions for small group work	<i>Susan Watkins</i>
7:55	REPORT OUT AND DISCUSSION	<i>All</i>
8:55	WRAP-UP / NEXT STEPS	<i>Aimee / Dan</i>

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Management and Operations Issues

- Funding
 - Implementation
 - Capacity Control
 - Marketing
 - Managing/operating entity
 - Liability
 - Information/interpretation
 - Education, etiquette for trail users
 - Cleanliness/sanitation/user impacts
 - Enforcement
 - Access
 - Emergency Response
 - Signage
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Small Group Instructions

1. Discuss and decide as a group which 3 possibilities within your category topic Chris presented tonight you like the best. List them on your first flip chart page titled “Like Best,” along with a brief explanation of why your group liked them the best.
2. Then decide as a group which 3 possibilities for your topic presented tonight you like least. Also list them the first flip chart page titled “Like Least” with an explanation of why.
3. If your group has suggestions for other possible approaches to resolving your group’s management and operations issue, please describe them on your second flip chart page.
4. Please choose someone in your group to present both of your flip chart pages once all the groups are ready to report out.

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Advocacy Discussion Notes

Ideas / comments

- I want to request that hard numbers be collected, like traffic counts and car destinations (e.g. residents, Incline, Barr Trail, Cog, Church Street)
- I want to know about capacity of the Incline and the area around it
- Collect all the data before the high season ends
- Get volunteers working in shifts to cover it from dawn to dusk on one weekend

Manitou Incline Operations and Maintenance Possibilities Workshop – 15 July 2010

THE *incline* PROJECT

SUSTAINABILITY – ECONOMIC / ENVIRONMENTAL / SOCIAL (COMMUNITY)

FUNDING	MARKETING	MAINTENANCE	RULES OF USE	MANAGEMENT
<u>Capital Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Owners Donations – individual & group Grants Sponsorships <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Non-profit fundraising group Foundation Historic designation Other _____ <u>Operations/Maintenance Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Voluntary donation fee Municipal taxes Lodging tax Business tax Parking fees Individual User Fee <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (Daily, multi use, season pass, license) User group fees Special District Tax Special Events to raise money Foundation for maintenance Reduced fee for Manitou residents Other _____ <u>Fee Collection System Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Staffed Machine on site On-line Honor system Other _____ 	<u>Promotion Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Widely promote use Passively manage use Other _____ <u>Sponsorship Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Advertising Naming rights Other _____ <u>Special Events Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Limitation on number and size of events Permitting process for “outside” special events Official Incline “race” Series of races to generate revenue Chip time race Other _____ <u>Retail Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Promotion of “incline” logo products for percentage of sales Local business discount trades Other _____ <u>Grand Opening Event</u>	<u>Labor Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Paid staffing Contract staffing Volunteer staffing/user group stewardship <u>Cleanliness/Sanitation Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Leave No Trace” Ethic Trash containers at trailheads Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowed Allowed on leash – poop stations Allowed at certain times Other _____ <u>User Impacts Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Stay on the trail Designated rest areas Protect as open space Restrooms Wayfinding for legitimate choice of how to get down Other _____ <u>Emergency Response</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Identification of location of injured Clear the route to and on the Incline Education about safety 	<u>Access Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Hours of Operation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Daily Seasonal Access location <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Bottom only Multiple access points Bailout options <u>Capacity Control Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Group use at specific times Up and down use Uphill travel right of way Up use only Rest stops off incline Heath warnings Pets <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Not allowed Allowed on leash Allowed at certain times Other _____ <u>Enforcement Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> No trespassing before plan implemented Staffing coverage <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Ranger” model Limited commission officers Initial Philosophy <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Soft opening (warning period) Hard opening (tickets) 	<u>Management Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Free standing authority Existing governmental jurisdiction Contract w/ private management company <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Contract with non-profit Advisory Board Other _____ <u>Liability Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> “Use at your own risk” (skatepark model) Monitored – use only when “open” Other _____ <u>Implementation Possibilities</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Enforcement of no trespassing until officially open Partial use during construction Shut down period before “grand opening” Other _____ <u>Signage (info, not for discussion)</u> <p>Rules of use; trail etiquette, courtesy; physicality warning; education; interpretation; wayfinding</p>